

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MADRID 000001

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR S/ES-O/CMS - OFFICE OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [AMED](#) [AEMR](#) [KFLO](#) [SP](#)

SUBJECT: AVIAN INFLUENZA: SPAIN CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND TRIPWIRES

REF: SECSTATE 219189

MISSION PREPARATIONS TO DATE

1. (SBU) Mission Spain has begun the contingency planning process to prepare for the unique challenges posed by a potential Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak in Spain. The key action officer for Mission preparations is Embassy Madrid Post Medical Officer Doctor Jose Peralba. He and his office are the primary liaison point with M/Med, the RMO, and local medical resources. In addition, he is the primary liaison with his counterpart at the U.S. military base at Rota, Spain, and has already contacted his counterparts there regarding Avian Influenza. Dr. Peralba is also the Post Medical Officer for Consulate General Barcelona and includes the Consulate in all Avian Influenza preparations.

2. (SBU) Internally, we have stocked a large supply of Personal Protective Equipment (e.g., masks and gloves) (300 N-95 masks and 6400 disposable gloves) and we are waiting for M/Med shipments of the anti-viral "Tamiflu." In addition, the Medical Unit has updated its contacts with local medical services (e.g., hospitals, emergency rooms, doctors, and ambulance services).

3. (SBU) Embassy Madrid's Consular Section and Consulate General Barcelona monitor Spanish press reports on Avian Influenza and consult regularly on this issue with Post Medical Officer Peralba and Mission ESTHOFF. The Madrid Consular Section and Consulate General Barcelona have circulated a warden message to the resident U.S. citizen community and study abroad programs. This warden message, which can be accessed through the "Bird Flu" link on embusa.es, includes basic information on the illness and links to CDC and State websites and information sheets. Mission plans to add a link the Spanish Health Ministry's Avian Influenza Plan (in English).

MISSION PREPARATIONS SOON TO BE LAUNCHED

4. (SBU) Mission Spain will endeavor to accomplish outstanding "Preparedness Steps" outlined in paragraph 8 of Reftel. Measures that the Mission will undertake, under the leadership of the Post Medical Officer, will include, but not be limited to:

- increasing education for hand hygiene and cough etiquette, self shielding, isolation and quarantine;
- preparation of signs at all entrances referring to flu symptoms that request that employees contact the Medical Unit if they have symptoms;
- insuring that the stock of Personal Protective Equipment is adequate;
- insuring that the stock of "Tamiflu" and "AB" are adequate;
- distributing information about symptoms and temperature checking with a simple flow chart and algorithms for Mission employees and family members;
- updating contacts with schools attended by official family members;
- establishing guidelines for stocking of water, food and fuel;
- establishing guidelines for communications in the event of an AI pandemic;
- updating Mission staff on new AI-related events and the health response;
- evaluating who should be considered a "higher risk" individual in the event of an AI pandemic (e.g., under two

and over 60), and thus subject to earlier evacuation back to CONUS;

- starting an Mission education program related to AI
- establishing optimal methods for delivering assessment and care to individuals with AI, including the designation of discreet areas for screening, triage, and care of affected individuals;
- establishing procedures for the medical evaluation and isolation of quarantined persons who exhibit signs of AI-like illness;
- developing tools and mechanisms to limit the stigmatization of affected persons and family members;
- establishing procedures for delivering medical care, food and services to persons in isolation or quarantine, taking into consideration the special needs of children and persons with disabilities;
- developing protocols for monitoring and enforcing quarantine measures;
- ensuring the legal authority and procedures exist for various levels of movement restrictions; and,
- establishing procedures for issues related to employment compensation, job security and administrative leave.

TRIPWIRES

15. (SBU) Spain has a capable national health care system similar to that found in other developed European economies. Host country medical treatment facilities would be able to address limited AI outbreaks but, like any other developed country, could be overwhelmed if a large pandemic develops. Post would be able to shelter in place for an extended period, and would probably need to if air travel were curtailed to and from the United States depending on the extent of an outbreak.

16. (SBU) Tripwire One: Sustained human-to-human transmission of a virulent mutation of AI anywhere else in the world. If this happens, Mission anticipates that human-to-human transmission will reach Spain within a matter of weeks.

- begin immediate preparations for arrival of second tripwire, including:
 - distribution of stocks of masks and gloves;
 - identification of high risk members of the mission community (e.g., under 20, over 60, pregnant, etc.) for possible evacuation back to CONUS (in keeping with HHS and M/med guidelines);
 - announcements to the mission community coordinated with announcements to AmCits resident/visiting Spain;
 - encouraging of social distancing;
 - streamlining of AI and essential issues reporting back to M/Med;
 - preparations for "snow day" (M/med term) operations at Mission Spain facilities;
 - reduction of permitted visitors into Embassy and Consulate compounds;
 - mandating that all ill Mission employees should not/not come to work and should plan to work from home as much as possible;
 - contact schools attended by official family members;
 - stocking of seven-day supply of food/water at personal residences;
 - stocking of NEX;
 - topping up fuel tanks and GOV/POV fuel tanks; and,
 - distribution of equipment to maintain communications with Mission community and enable officers to work from home (radios, blackberries, FOBs if available, lists of home phone numbers and home e-mail addressees).

17. (SBU) Tripwire Two: Sustained human-to-human transmission in Spain, which can be expected to occur simultaneously in several Western European locations.

-- trigger "snow day" operations (initially for a 10-day period); including, but not limited to:

-- Embassy, Consulate General Barcelona, and Consular Agencies would essentially be closed for all but essential staff (RSO/MSG, IPC skeleton crew, Maintenance skeleton crew, Medical Unit, CONS/ACS, and Motorpool), with all other personnel remaining at home;

-- Children will be kept home from school;

-- Mission staff will be instructed to avoid social gatherings/public places;

-- Mission staff will be instructed to monitor their temperatures, record their symptoms and call designated Health Unit staff for verbal screening;

-- Medical Unit will respond to cases of infection within the official community and determine need for house quarantine or hospitalization (care may be given in either Mission facilities or at residences);

-- Medical Unit will document all screening conversations and any follow-up;

-- EAC will consider authorized departure for high risk personnel and family members if human-to-human transmission has not reached the U.S.;

-- Mission will coordinate with USNATO and Rota regarding mutual support and any evacuation planning that might involve U.S. military or USG contract aircraft;

-- CON/ACS will address needs of resident/visiting AmCit community;

-- Medical Unit will initiate contact with host nation medical services;

18. (SBU) General evacuation from Spain to CONUS is not likely to be an effective option. Human- to-human transmission, if it develops, will likely hit the U.S. about the same time it hits Europe. Spain's medical infrastructure and its ability to contain outbreaks are on par with the U.S. Evacuation to CONUS may make sense in individual cases but probably not for the general Mission community. Extrapolated to the larger resident and visiting AmCit community, however, may mean coordination of commercial and charter flights to return a significant number of individuals to the U.S. Post is also aware that the arrival of AI in the U.S. may lead us to restrict access to the U.S. and thus inhibit any effort to return AmCits to the U.S.

TRIPS DATA BASE

19. Per reftel request, Embassy Madrid nominates Management Section OMS Lesley Acs and GSO, Margaret Kurtz-Randall, as the two mission employees who will be responsible for inputting Avian Influenza tripwire data into the Tripwire Reporting and Integrated Planning System (TRIPS) data base. Both hold Top Secret clearances.
AGUIRRE